

REMARKS

Receipt is acknowledged of the Final Office Action of June 13, 2006. Claims 1-8, 10-20 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-8 and 10-20 have been rejected in the Final Office Action. In response to the Examiner's rejection, Applicants amended Claims 1 and 17 of the present Application and request reconsideration of the rejection, as explained in more detail below.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

Claims 1-4, 8, 10-14 and 16-20 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hsieh (U.S. Patent No. 6,270,325), in view of Carter (U.S. Patent No. 3,652,186). Further, Claims 5 and 7 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hsieh in view of Carter and further in view of Obara (U.S. Patent No. 6,379,129) and Claims 6 and 15 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hsieh in view of Carter and further in view of Schmider et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,176,509).

Claims 1-8 and 10-20 are currently pending in the Application. Claims 1 and 17 are two remaining independent Claims.

Amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a fan motor including a base and a cylindrically-shaped bearing housing integrally formed from the base and having a first opening located at a housing end opposite the base and a second opening located at a housing end adjacent to the base. The fan motor further includes a pair of bearings set in an interior of the bearing housing and a rotational shaft supported by the pair of bearings. A shield part is

integrally formed on the bearing housing at an end opposite the base. The shield part, formed as a unitary one-piece element with the bearing housing, extends in a radial direction towards the rotational shaft and partially closes the first opening of the bearing housing. The rotational shaft is attached to a hub having a cylindrical part extending into the bearing housing through the first opening and forming a labyrinth-shaped gap with the shield part. A retainer cap is set through the second opening of the bearing housing to enclose this second opening. The retainer cap includes a cylindrical wall axially extended within an interior of the bearing housing. The cylindrical wall contacts and supports at least one of the bearings.

Similarly, independent Claim 17 is directed to an apparatus for a fan motor, having a bearing housing, a shield part, a hub supporting a rotational shaft and a retainer cap. The bearing housing has a hollow interior and a first and a second open end. The shield part is integrally formed as a unitary one-piece element with the bearing housing at the first end of the bearing housing and extends radially towards the interior of the bearing housing. The hub supporting a rotational shaft includes a cylindrical part extending into the bearing housing through the first end and forming a labyrinth-shaped gap with the shield part. The retainer cap fits onto the second end of the bearing housing. The retainer cap includes a cylindrical wall axially extended within an interior of the bearing housing. The cylindrical wall contacts and supports at least one of the bearings. Thus, the interior of the bearing housing is shielded by the shield part with the labyrinth-shaped gap and the retainer cap supporting one of the bearings.

As will be appreciated by a person skilled in the art, the added element of the retainer cap having a cylindrical wall extending axially within an interior of the bearing housing and contacting and supporting at least one of the bearings is important to properly manufacture

the fan motor in accordance with the present invention. Specifically, since the shield part and the bearing housing are a unitary one-piece element, the bearings can be inserted only from the second opening. Therefore, the retainer cap is the means to secure the bearing in place and to simultaneously close the opening.

The prior art of record does not disclose, teach or suggest the present invention as claimed in amended Claims 1 and 17. Specifically, at least the limitation of the retainer cap having a cylindrical wall extending axially within an interior of the bearing housing and contacting and supporting at least one of the bearings is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record. Instead, Hsieh discloses a "thrust bearing (31)" which is "pressed into the bottom of the bearing housing (431), such that the end of the shaft (13) abuts the thrust bearing (31)." See, column 3, lines 20-22. As shown in Fig. 2 of Hsieh, thrust bearing (31) does not support or contact the self-lubricating bearing (43). Instead, the purpose of the thrust bearing is to support the shaft (13) in the axial direction.

Similarly, Carter does not disclose a retainer cap placed into the second opening of the bearing housing and having a cylindrical wall extending axially within an interior of the bearing housing and contacting and supporting at least one of the bearings. Instead, Carter discloses a step in the bearing housing 52 and the main base 42 securing the bearing within the bearing housing. See Fig. 4. Therefore, the above cited limitations of Claims 1 and 17 are not disclosed in either Hsieh or Carter.

Moreover, none of the cited prior art discloses the limitation of independent Claims 1 and 17 requiring that retainer cap is to include the cylindrical wall extending axially

within an interior of the bearing housing and contacting and supporting at least one of the bearings is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

Based on the above, Applicants believe that Claims 1 and 17 are patentable over the cited prior art. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 2-8, 10-16 and 18-20 are believed to define patentable subject matter in view of their dependency upon allowable Claims 1 and 17 and, further, on their own merits.

The Examiner is urged to telephone Applicants' undersigned counsel if it will advance the prosecution of this application, or with any suggestion to resolve any condition that would impede allowance. In the event that any extension of time is required, Applicant petitions for that extension of time required to make this response timely. Kindly charge any additional fee, or credit any surplus, to Deposit Account No. 50-0675, Order No. 051319-35.

Respectfully submitted,

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